

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGR-10

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00

DLOS-05 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02

OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 272021Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4964

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

US MISSION GENEVA 113

UNCLAS QUITO 2139

GENEVA FOR LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PLOS EC US

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON U.S. FISHERIES PROPOSAL

REF: QUITO 2068

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF COMPLETE TEXT OF EDITORIAL ENTITLED "A NEW DIPLOMATIC POSITION" WHICH APPEARED IN MARCH 22 EDITION OF GUAYAQUIL TABLOID EXPRESO.

2. BEGIN TEXT: ALTHOUGH A NATURAL RESERVE IS MAINTAINED IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SIGNATORY COUNTRIES OF THE SANTIAGO DECLARATION, WHICH CLAIMED A 200-MILE UNCLASSIFIED

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TERRITORIAL SEA FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTION AND EXPLOITATION

OF ITS RESOURCES ARE NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES, WHICH OF COURSE REPRESENTS ALL THE MARITIME POWERS WHICH HAVE OPPOSED THE TERMS OF THE SANTIAGO DECLARATION. IT WAS THIS THAT BROUGHT ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED "THE TUNA WAR".

3. THE DETAILED INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS ON THE MATTER LEAVES NO ROOM FOR DOUBT. THE UNITED STATES HAS SENT JOHN N. MOORE, A WELL-KNOWN NEGOTIATOR IN THESE MATTERS SINCE THE TUNA WAR BEGAN, TO ECUADOR TO PROPOSE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PACIFIC REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. IT WOULD BE COMPOSED OF ALL THE PACIFIC OCEAN COASTAL COUNTRIES IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. ALL FISHING VESSELS WISHING TO ENGAGE IN FISHING ACTIVITIES WITHIN A 200-MILE LIMIT WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN A PERMIT, WHICH WOULD BE ISSUED BY THE ORGANIZATION AGAINST PAYMENT OF A FEE AND WOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE COUNTRY IN WHOSE WATERS SUCH FISHING ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT.

4. THEY SAY THAT ECUADOR ACCEPTED SUCH AGREEMENT "IN PRINCIPLE" AND THAT IT IS HOLDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC AGREEMENT WHO SIGNED THE SANTIAGO DECLARATION, I.E. CHILE AND PERU.

5. IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO ANTICIPATE THAT THE TWO AFORESAID NATIONS WILL AGREE TO THE POSITION ADOPTED BY ECUADOR, INASMUCH AS IT WAS OUR COUNTRY THAT WAGED PRACTICALLY ALONE THE SO-CALLED TUNA WAR. THIS "WAR" HAS HAD SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS, AND ECUADOR HAS HAD TO ENDURE DANGEROUS RETALIATORY MEASURES RANGING FROM BOYCOTTS AGAINST OUR PRODUCTS IN AMERICAN PORTS BY THE STEVEDORES TO STORMY DEBATES IN THE U.S. CONGRESS, DURING WHICH THE MOST SERIOUS THREATS AGAINST ECUADOR HAVE BEEN UTTERED.

6. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT MARITIME PIRACY, PARTICULARLY THAT RELATING TO TUNA FISHING, IS CARRIED ON ONLY IN ECUADOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS, SINCE, ECOLOGICALLY, IT IS THE HUMBOLDT CURRENT THAT CONTAINS AN ABUNDANCE OF THOSE RESOURCES WHICH ARE COVETED BY THE BIG FISHING TRUSTS. THE CURRENT FLOWS FROM CHILE TO ECUADOR, WHICH

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WAS PRECISELY THE REASON FOR PREPARING AND SIGNING THE SANTIAGO DECLARATION. IT IS MOST PROBABLE THAT SUCH PIRATICAL ACTIVITIES HAVE TAKEN PLACE ALL ALONG THE SOUTHWESTERN PACIFIC COAST. ECUADOR, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN THE ONLY COUNTRY TO PROTECT ITS FISHING RESOURCES AND APPLY THE PROVISIONS OF THE SANTIAGO DECLARATION.

7. AT ANY RATE, A COMPROMISE WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH OPPOSE

THE 200-MILE THESIS WOULD BE DESIRABLE SO AS TO REMOVE A SOURCE OF CONCERN WHICH HAS BEEN STIRRING THE CONTINENT FOR 23 YEARS NOW. HOWEVER, SUCH COMPROMISE WHOULD NOT INJURE THE PRINCIPLE OF SOVEREIGNTY OF EVERY STATE OVER ITS TERRITORIAL SEA. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS IS NOT GUARANTEED UNDER THE TERMS PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES AS THEY ARE DESCRIBED IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPORTS, AS ECUADOR WOULD TO A CERTAIN EXTENT BE TRANSFERRING ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS TO AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH COULD BE MANEUVERED BY POWERFUL INTERESTS. MOREOVER, THE PRESENT TERMS WOULD BE RADICALLY CHANGED: AT THE PRESENT TIME, ECUADOR IS DEFENDING ITS MARINE RESOURCES AGAINST THE INROADS OF PRIVATE OCEAN PIRATES; IF SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IS CREATED, ECUADOR WOULD HAVE TO FILE ITS COMPLAINTS WITH IT, THEREBY RUNNING THE RISK OF INSTITUTIONALIZING, TO SOME EXTENT, ILLEGAL FISHING WITHIN THE 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA.

8. IT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL THAT, PRIOR TO ANY ARRANGEMENT, THE 200-MILE RULE SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED. IT IS MAKING HEADWAY IN THE WORLD AND IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO ANTICIPATE THAT THE PRINCIPLE WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO INTERNATIONAL LAW. THIS ACTION WILL VINDICATE ECUADOR AND THE OTHER SIGNATORY COUNTRIES OF THE SANTIAGO DECLARATION.

9. IN ANY CASE, THIS MATTER SHOULD BE DEALT WITH VERY CAREFULLY BY OUR GOVERNMENT. NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY IS INVOLVED AND, THEREFORE, THE MATTER IS OF INCALCULABLE IMPORTANCE. END TEXT.
BREWSTER

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